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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Tuesday - 17 August 1954

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1. In response to Sen. Ellender's request for a briefing prior to his trip to Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, the Senator was briefed in his office today for almost 2-1/2 hours. The briefing was handled by the following members of OCI -- [REDACTED] (NEA),

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[REDACTED] 95% of the conversation was taken up with discussions of the Middle East and South Asia, with the Senator doing a good deal of the talking. He seemed completely friendly, and stated that if at any point on his trip there was anything he could do for CIA or any questions that CIA people thought he might ask better than they, they should feel quite free to approach him.

2. Considerable difficulty has arisen in attempting to secure passage of 6 private bills for CIA in the House. Because of the last minute passage by the Senate of scores of these bills, the House has tended to commit all of them to Committee and not follow the usual practice of bringing them up under suspension of the rules. I have urged most strongly on Mr. Besterman, Committee Counsel, the need for these bills, one of which is operational, and 3 of which involve 3 of the 5 "Freedom Fliers" from Czechoslovakia. As a bill for the other 2 members of the "Freedom Fliers" has already passed both Houses and is on its way for signature, it would be most unfortunate to lose these 3. Because of blocks being put in the way of passage, I mentioned the matter briefly to Majority Leader Halleck, who is willing to let the bills come up if the Committee Chairmen agree. Subcommittee Chairman Graham has called a meeting for tomorrow morning, at which time the Committee plans to approve all bills which involve split families. There also seems to be some possibility that they may make some exception for some other bills, including ours. I continue to hear some rumors, however, that Cong. Walter may block our bills because of his continued lack of success with CIA on patronage matters. I have left a note for Subcommittee Chairman Graham stating our desire for these 6 bills if it can be accomplished.

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